

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor  
in Los Angeles since 1905.



The Little Sisters (Sr. Laurencia, Mother Margaret, Sr. Michael, Sr. Paul, Sr. Winifred, Sr. Maureen, Sr. Isabel and Sr. Maria Guadalupe) celebrating with long time volunteers Vince and Mary DiLeva after their 50th Wedding Anniversary mass at Little Sisters Chapel.



Spring, 2015  
Volume: 13 | Number: 1

JEANNE JUGAN  
RESIDENCE  
2100 S. Western Ave.  
San Pedro, CA 90732  
310-548-0625

## JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE



### SAVE THE DATE

**18th Annual  
Auxiliary Gala  
Event "Enchanted  
Evening"**  
Saturday, October 3

**Annual Holiday  
Boutique**  
Saturday, October 24

Join us this Lenten  
Season by saving a  
stamp and  
**DONATE ONLINE!**

[littlesistersofthepoorsanpedro.org](http://littlesistersofthepoorsanpedro.org)

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## Learning about the Home

**BY: DOLORES KOLLMER,**  
*Development Director*

As most of you may already know Rita Swartz, retired last October. I also had a temporary retirement to care for my Mom, leaving my position as the Executive Director of a large nonprofit in Orange County after eight years of being at that position and twelve at the organization. After eight months, my mom was on the mend and so I decided to go back to work, however, it needed to be close to home. Rita and I met, and I truly believe that divine intervention happened at our meeting — I started my new position as the Development Director of Jeanne Jugan Residence on August 18, 2014. Needless to say I was excited and nervous; Rita had been here for thirteen years and had done fantastic work. I knew I had big shoes to fill.

Growing up in San Pedro I have been fortunate to know about Little Sisters of the Poor. I was told stories of my grandmother volunteering at the original location in Boyle Heights in Los Angeles. My parents, aunts and uncles all have volunteered at the San Pedro location. When we were younger they would bring my sister and I to the San Pedro Home to volunteer in the ice cream parlor. As a young person I always understood the home to be for the elderly poor and

that the Little Sisters did great work in the community to assist those less fortunate than us.

Since August, I have learned more about what happens inside the walls of our Home. Here are a few things:

1) No one who lives in the home is wealthy – in order to be eligible to live here they must be 65 years of age and they must have no more than \$20,000 a year income. The Residents are of all religions, race and ethnic backgrounds.

2) The Catholic Church does not directly fund the Little Sisters.

Saint Jeanne Jugan, the foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, was a humble beggar, gathering what was needed to care for the elderly poor in her home. This tradition of relying on the charity Continued on page 3 Continued from page 1 of those in the community has been maintained by the Little Sisters even today. They beg daily in the markets and places of business for food and commodities to offset operating expenses. They also make appeals in the Catholic parishes to build friendships and support for the day to day expenses. Throughout the year there are various fundraising opportunities; our Fall Boutique, sales of raffle tickets, annual and **Continued on page 3**

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



## Celebrating Our Volunteers

**BY: IDA PEARL HILKEY,**  
*LSOP Resident*

Volunteering is a way of life at the Little Sisters of the Poor Jeanne Jugan Residence. Many Residents give their time and expertise to help the Sisters in the ceramic room, craft room, gift shop and library. We are also privileged to have a group of outside volunteers each week who help out in every area of the home and also make items for our gift shop and annual Boutique in the fall.

We need more volunteers to come in and help paint ceramics, shelve books and help

in the gift shop. Our gift shop is open six days a week from 10:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. There are handmade baby gifts (blankets, booties, sweaters) and many gift items for your friends and family. The craft room is open weekly from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please come and paint and enjoy yourself. Please tell your friends and come over for a tour of our Home.

In closing, we are eternally indebted to the Auxiliary for all their help in volunteering here in our Home!

## Message from Ida Mavar, President of the Little Sisters of the Poor Auxiliary

It seems like this year just started, and already my Auxiliary Board and I are very anxious to get the "show on the road", for our up-coming fundraising event on October 3, at the Palos Verdes Country Club. We promised you an evening of fun, entertainment, and needless to say, a fabulous dinner, provided by no other than Chief Milan.

Please attend our Day of Reflection this coming March 11, 2015. Father Freddie Chua. Of Mary Star Of The Sea Church has graciously accepted to be our special guest speaker. It's a great time for all of us to start the Lent season with an uplifting and spiritual day. God Bless.



### **New Officers for 2015**

*Front Left to Right*

Ida Mavar                      President  
Dolores Kollmer            2nd Vice President  
Carol Rugnetta  
Sylvia Kostyo                1st Vice President

*Back Left to Right*

Mary Jean Salcido        Treasurer  
Mary DiLeva                Corresponding Secretary  
Dottie Mezin                Recording Secretary

## Joining the AJJ

**BY: VICKI NESICOLAC,**  
*LSOP Volunteer*

I started volunteering at Jeanne Jugan Residence about three years ago. My grandma, Ann Marapese, was a Resident here until she passed away in 2008. Because of the unbelievable love and nurturing the Sisters gave my grandma I promised them that as soon as my youngest went off to college, I would help them in any way I could.

Last year, Sister Paul asked me if I would be interested in joining the Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ's). I accepted and have been taking classes with Sr. Paul since last year. Classes are held once a month and focus on the life of Saint Jeanne Jugan and her mission to help and care for the elderly poor.

I have to say, these classes, have taught me so much more than I thought possible. I am truly amazed by the pure love and selflessness that Saint Jeanne Jugan had for others.

I am so grateful to Sr. Paul for teaching me about the Little Sisters. She says "AJJ's are the extended hands of the Sisters." I walk away from each class hoping and praying that God will continue to guide me in a direction that will truly help the Little Sisters in their mission.

## Thank you Rita!

**BY: COLLEEN COTTER**

Rita Swartz worked as our Development Director for 13 years and retired on October 2nd. She was as busy as ever during the last 4 months remodeling her kitchen and planning her daughter's wedding, which took place late December. Rita returned to us on February 4th to begin a new role here in our Home, that of volunteer! Mary Winzen is shown giving Rita her pink apron in the Volunteer Office. Thank you Rita for returning to us and always having a smile on your face!





## Learning about the Home

*Continued from page 1* Christmas appeals, as well as grants from various foundations. A major component of charity from the community is planned gifts from wills and estates. The Little Sisters often go from donation to donation to make ends meet and rejoice in the generosity that flows in support of their work.

3) The energy in the home is truly one of family; love for every person here beginning with our Residents, staff and volunteers. We have been blessed with so many wonderful volunteers who give of their time every day to work alongside the Sisters and staff to bring such joy and love to our Residents. These individuals come to help wherever they are needed: Saturday bingo and weekend current event readings, playing Trivial Pursuit, peeling potatoes, painting in our ceramic

room, blending milk shakes on Monday afternoons, serving up ice cream sundaes on Thursdays, taking the Residents out for walks in the garden, helping in our gift shop, folding clothes in the laundry, assist with the meals of our second floor Residents.

4) Our Auxiliary volunteers, 200 strong, dedicate their time and efforts into putting on our annual Gala to raise money for the home. Please save the date for our Gala on October 3rd, 2015 at the Palos Verdes Country Club. All are welcome!

I am truly blessed to be a part of this incredible home filled with love, laughter and compassion. We welcome you to our home to visit and see this atmosphere in action, it's infectious and you will want to be involved as well.



## World Day of the Sick

Members of the Order of Malta assisted our Residents and Little Sisters as drivers, escorting them by car to the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels for the fourth annual archdiocesan World Day of the Sick. It was a beautiful day and everyone arrived early to enjoy a sack lunch on the patio of the Cathedral before Mass and Anointing of the Sick.

“World Day of the Sick was instituted by Blessed John Paul II in 1992,” explained Archbishop José Gomez during his homily.

“This celebration is a reminder to pray for all those who are sick and to recognize and honor those who work in healthcare and those who serve as caregivers.

The Mass and Anointing of the Sick were hosted by the Western Association of the Order of Malta. Knights and Dames were available at the Cathedral to assist those in need at arrival and during the Mass and Anointing.

“Having members of the Order be our escorts made our Residents feel very special from beginning to end,” said Sister Anthony. “The driving time allowed for lively conversation that continues the friendship which have formed from the ongoing service of the Knights and Dames in our Home. We are most grateful to them.”

## Events of the Past



### Holiday Cheer was All Around us Last Christmas!

Volunteer Carol Kollmer came a few days early to build fifty ginger bread houses so when the Residents arrived for the “Ginger Bread House Decorating” party their houses only needed exterior attention! Residents and volunteers came with great Christmas spirit and enjoyed nibbling on the treats and cookies while adding frosting and candy to their yummy houses! All of the Residents left this party with big smiles on their faces!

Santa's workshop was in full swing with our Residents creatively decorating their own petite Christmas trees! It took a lot of patience to place the tiny ornaments and tinsel delicately on the trees. The residents were so proud of their creative work! Smiles were abound as the residents carried them up to their rooms. Thank you Cathy Hirshey for donating the petite Christmas trees and ornaments!



### Friends at Stonefire Grill

We are so lucky to have friends like Stonefire Grill. They come the first Sunday of the month and treat our Residents to a delicious dinner. They also come throughout the year for special occasions. Below is a photo of the Valentines dinner they brought and served to our residents!



# A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior



As we prepare for the beautiful time of spring, when everything begins to renew itself and open itself to new life, the Holy Father reminds us of the true meaning of the word repent. The word literally means “to think beyond the way we think now, to turn around and think in a different way”. The call to repentance by Jesus, and the real call of Lent, is to take a new look at God, to refresh our image of him. It is to come to a vivid realization that God loves us now, as we are, and before ever we change. The main thing in Lent is not that we should do things for God but that we should become more aware of how much God is doing for us. Each day we want to see more and more that God loves us powerfully, unflinchingly, permanently.

Lent is also a time when we need to turn round and think in a different way about the pressing issues of our times. It is a time for renewing our commitment to protecting human dignity and promoting human rights. This means addressing the grave problems of poverty, hunger and unemployment, not least by protecting the abundant resources of the earth and sharing them more equitably.

Pope Francis stated in his meeting with the elderly at St. Peter's Square, “Old age, in particular is a time of grace, in which the Lord will renew his call: He calls us to preserve and transmit the faith, calls us to pray, especially to intercede; calls us to be close to those who maybe in need.” The elderly – grandparents especially have a capacity to understand the most difficult situations: a great ability and when they pray for these situations, their prayer is strong. It is powerful. “The Holy Father went on to warn again losing sight of and appreciation for the inestimable worth of those, who are in twilight of life. A people that do not have care for the elderly that does not treat them well, has no future: Such person loses its memory and its roots.”

So as we journey through Lent may we open our hearts more fully as Saint Jeanne Jugan did to think differently in our commitment to protecting human dignity for the elderly in our community.

With deep gratitude to all of our dear friends and benefactors, we assure you of our prayers, and the prayers of our residents, which are offered daily for each of you!

May God fill your hearts with peace and strength as we journey together each day toward Easter.

May God Bless and Reward You.

*Mother Margaret Lep*

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at [www.littlesistersofthepoorsanpedro.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorsanpedro.org)

**Thank you to our Parish Pastors for allowing Little Sisters of the Poor, the opportunity to place our newsletter near the bulletins to share our appeals with their parishioners.**

Our Sisters have been in the Los Angeles area since 1905, first in Boyle Heights and then after the Sylmar earthquake damaged our home we moved in 1979 to San Pedro on the old Fermin Lasuen High School property. Our story began quite a while before that, in a little fishing village on the west coast of France. There was a woman named Jeanne Jugan, she was poor and 47 years old, Jeanne always knew that God wanted her. She never knew exactly why.

Jeanne did day work for the wealthy families around the town, and one night coming home from work she discovered an elderly neighbor left alone — blind, paralyzed, alone because her sister who cared for her was now in the hospital dying.

More poor elderly moved into Jeanne's apartment, girls from the neighborhood came to help, and seeing the need, they took a great leap of faith in Providence, left their cozy apartment, and moved down the street into an abandoned café. (There were a lot of older women in St. Servan without support because, as I said, it was, and still is, a fishing town. They had lost their husbands and their sons at sea. Jeanne herself was a sailor's orphan.) Jeanne somehow found room for twelve guests, and soon she had twelve guests and no money. So she turned to the neighbors for help — the markets, businesses, parish and the wealthy families for whom she had worked for about twenty years by then.

Later, they found a bigger place, and then there

was room for forty. Jeanne went begging to the next town. However, each town had the same problem with homeless elderly, and they wanted her to stay and open a home. Jeanne opened up another home, and it was full before long. This happened again and again throughout France.

Jeanne kept going where she was needed. Today the Little Sisters are in thirty-one countries, trying to do the same thing that she did with the same faith in Divine Providence that she left us; making as home-like and happy a home as we can for those who come to us and can't keep it together financially any more, or see the day coming all too quickly when they won't be able to. As one pastor said, “we give them a safe place to live and sure of the presence of the sisters until the end, a safe place to die.”

We still turn to our neighbors for help — markets, businesses, parishes throughout the Los Angeles area. Our home has 100 Residents, and each year the Little Sisters must raise 60% of our operating cost from gifts, bequest, and donated commodities and church collections. We would never make ends meet if we didn't receive donations. We say that the Lord sends his friends, and they keep us going. Once, when Jeanne was trying to open a new home, the city would not give her a permit. ... “If God fills the house, he will not abandon it,” she said. And that's how the story has gone ever since. The house has always been full, and it has never been abandoned.

## Upcoming Events:

*Please Save The Date!*

*Little Sisters of the Poor Annual Gala*  
***Enchanted Evening***

*October 3rd, 2015*  
***5:30 Cocktails***  
***7:00 Dinner***

*Palos Verdes Country Club*  
***3301 Via Campesina***  
***Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274***

